

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Amendments to the claims are reflected in the following Listing of Claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

### **Listing of Claims**

1. (currently amended) A ~~method of preparing~~ membrane having an affinity for biomolecules, said membrane prepared by a method comprising the steps:
  - (a) providing a microporous membrane;
  - (b) reacting said membrane of step (a) with a reagent containing a functional group to form a functionalized membrane containing ~~reactive~~ said functional group groups on the surfaces thereof;
  - (c) contacting said functionalized membrane of step (b) with a solution containing an affinity ligand to couple said ligand to said functional group to form a biologically active membrane;
  - (d) washing said biologically active membrane with a washing solution containing a volatile organic compound that is miscible with said washing solution; and
  - (e) drying said biologically active membrane.
2. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 1 wherein said functional group of step (b) is an aldehyde.
3. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 1 wherein said affinity ligand of step (c) is selected from the group consisting of thiophiles; hydrophobes; reversed phase ligands; dyes; low molecular weight charged or non-charged organic molecules; amino acids and analogs thereof; coenzymes, cofactors and analogs thereof; substrates and analogs thereof; endocrine and exocrine substances; enzyme substrates, enzyme inhibitors and analogs thereof; fatty acids, fatty acid derivatives, conjugated fatty acids and analogs thereof; nucleic

acids; monomers and analogs and derivatives thereof; polymers and oligopolymers and analogs and derivatives thereof; high molecular weight carbohydrates; glycolic conjugates; proteins and oligomers, subunits and parts thereof; peptides, polypeptides and analogs and derivatives thereof; lectine; antibodies and parts thereof; fusion proteins; haptene; enzymes and subunits and parts thereof; structural proteins; receptors and parts thereof; xenobiotics; pharmaceuticals and pharmaceutically active substances; alkaloids; antibiotics; and biomimicking substances.

4. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 3 wherein said affinity ligand is Protein A.

5. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 1 wherein said washing solution of step (d) is aqueous-based.

6. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 5 wherein said washing solution is a phosphate buffered saline solution.

7. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 6 wherein said volatile organic compound of step (e) (d) is glycerine.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 1 wherein said microporous membrane of step (a) is a polymeric membrane selected from the group consisting of cellulose acetate, cellulose nitrate, polyamide, polyethersulfone, polypropylene and polyvinylidene fluoride.

10. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ membrane of claim 9 wherein said microporous membrane has an average pore diameter of from about 0.01 to about 15 microns and a thickness of from about 100 to about 500 microns.

11. (canceled)
12. (currently amended) The membrane ~~product~~ of claim 11 ~~stored in a dry state in a substantially anaerobic atmosphere~~ 1 impregnated with glycerine.
13. (currently amended) At least one of the membrane ~~product~~ of claim 11 in a filtration housing having a fluid inlet and a fluid outlet wherein said at least one membrane ~~product~~ is situated between said inlet and said outlet.
14. (currently amended) The membrane ~~product~~ of claim 13 wherein said filtration housing contains three of said membrane ~~products~~.